CLAIMS
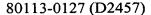
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An apparatus for providing a function to a host terminal, comprising:

a point of deployment (POD) module that can be connected to the host; and

an interface between the POD module and the host, wherein the interface selectively integrates the POD module and the host such that the POD module and host act as a unified architecture.

2.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interface integrates the POD module and the host if the host has a given characteristic, and wherein the interface does not integrate the POD module and host if the host does not have the given characteristic.

3.   The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the given characteristic indicates that the host is an authorized host.

4.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the unified architecture allows at least one of a direct memory access transfer and a shared memory between the POD module the host.

5.   The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a memory having at least one of a first memory portion in the POD module and a second memory portion in the host.

6.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interface includes a plurality of pins coupling the POD module to the host, and wherein at least one pin is allocated as the interface pin for integrating the POD module and the host.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the interface pin is a reserved pin on an NRSS-B interface.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the plurality of pins has an established functional pin layout that is changed to a reconfigured functional pin layout to integrate the host and the POD module.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the functional reconfiguration facilitates at least one of shared memory and direct memory access between the host and the POD module.

10. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the interface pin is a dual functionality pin that is switchable between an established pin function and a reconfigured pin function that integrates the POD module and the host.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the reconfigured pin function allows at least one of shared memory and direct memory access between the host and the POD module.

12. An apparatus for providing a function to a host terminal, comprising:
a memory;
a point of deployment (POD) module that can be connected to the host; and
a plurality of pins connecting the POD module to the host, wherein at least one of said plurality of pins is allocated as an interface pin that selectively integrates the POD module and host to allow the POD module and the host to share the memory and to allow direct memory access between the POD module and the host.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the memory includes a first memory portion in the POD module and a second memory portion in the host.
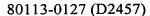
14.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the interface pin selectively integrates the POD module and the host by selectively reconfiguring the functions of a selected number of said plurality of pins.

15.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the interface pin integrates the POD module and the host if the host has a given characteristic, and wherein the interface pin does not integrate the POD module and the host if the host does not have the given characteristic.

16.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the given characteristic indicates that the host is an authorized host.

17.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the interface pin is a reserved pin on an NRSS-B interface.

18.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the interface pin is a dual functionality pin that is switchable between a standard function and an integration function that integrates the POD module and the host.

19.   A method for providing a function to a host terminal, comprising the acts of:

connecting a point of deployment (POD) module to the host via an interface; and

selectively integrating the POD module and the host such that the POD module and host act as a unified architecture.

20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the selectively integrating act is conducted if the host has a given characteristic, and wherein the selectively integrating act is not conducted if the host does not have the given characteristic.

21.   The method of claim 20, wherein the given characteristic indicates that the host is an authorized host.

22.   The method of claim 19, wherein the selective integrating act allows at least one of a direct memory access transfer and a shared memory between the POD module the host.

23.   The method of claim 19, wherein the interface includes a plurality of pins coupling the POD module to the host, and wherein the selectively integrating act includes the act of allocating at least one pin as an interface pin for integrating the POD module and the host.

24.   The method of claim 23, wherein the plurality of pins has an established functional pin layout, and wherein the selectively integrating act includes the act of functionally reconfiguring the established functional pin layout to obtain reconfigured functional pin layout.

25.   The method of claim 24, wherein the functional reconfiguration act facilitates at least one of shared memory and direct memory access between the host and the POD module.

26.   The method of claim 23, wherein the interface pin is a dual functionality pin, and wherein the selectively integrating act includes the act of switching the dual functionality pin between an established function and a reconfigured function that integrates the POD module and the host.

27.   The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the reconfigured function allows at least one of shared memory and direct memory access between the host and the POD module.